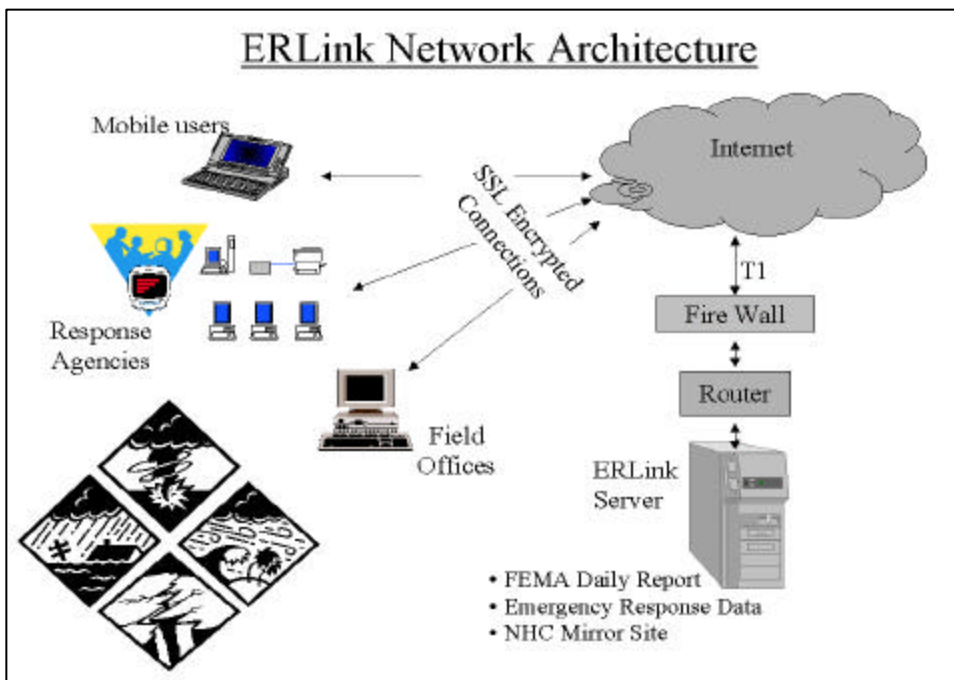


Emergency Response Link

Purpose: The Emergency Response Link (ERLink) is a controlled access Web site that provides electronic information sharing and rapid exchange of information within the disaster response community including representatives from Federal, state, and local organizations. ERLink capitalizes on the versatility and ubiquity of the Internet. The site is based on the user friendly point-and-click nature of the WWW to simplify navigation. The Internet was chosen for the backbone as a cost-effective means of implementing a network that reaches the diverse and widespread disaster response community. The ERLink software has been provided to FEMA for review and potential implementation. The current system is hosted by the NCS and is available for use by interested parties.

Background: To successfully respond and mitigate a situation, the disaster response community must receive accurate information in a timely fashion. The value ERLink provides to meeting this objective will be measured against the participation and content provided by the user community. Current content is event driven with some regular features such as data mirrored from the National Hurricane Center and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Daily Report. ERLink has supported numerous events including 1999 Hurricanes Bret, Dennis, Floyd, Irene and Lenny; Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Dresden exercise and the Year 2000 (Y2K) Event. Based upon user feedback, new functionality to support the Regional Interagency Steering Committees (RISCs) and the Y2K Event reporting have been developed. Also, the Solar Message Center external link has been incorporated in ERLink to support emergency planners with solar alert messages generated by the National Weather Service (NWS).



Highlights:

- Access restricted to registered users.
- Traffic is encrypted using the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol.
- Read and upload rights assigned by user group.
- Data owners determine the information to provide and the user group that can review.
- Information upload via web browser.
- Information available includes situation updates, reports, imagery, and documents.

Contact Information: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the ERLink Program Office.

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<http://www.ncs.gov/erlink/html>